

354. You say — “ Why, no one is COMPELL’D
 “ By shame or modesty withheld :”
 This not the thing secures :
 For were all MUTE — but they who FEEL,
 Or hope of heav’n, or fear of hell,
 A SILENT meeting — YOURS !
355. You know ’tis equal — ’live or dead :
 Nay, hear THEIR voice, who cannot READ :
 Yet THESE can CHEW the pray’r :
 Howl like the hound, or squeaking mouse,
 Blatter the magpye or the goose :
 Or grumble as the bear.
356. And they WILL too — without your leave :
 They’re at it now — come — pull their sleeve :
 You cannot stop the brawl :
 Their book — (the chart for all they do)
 Is now before ’em — FALSE or TRUE,
 And they’ll repeat it all.
357. In vain you urge “ there is no need
 “ They SHOULD repeat, as if their CREED,
 “ Or knowledge of THEIR OWN :
 “ What only was ANOTHER man’s,
 “ And is but put into their hands
 “ As something that was done.”
358. So then — you give it as a TOY,
 To keep ’em from some WORSE employ :
 At least, while they are THERE :
 Not mean a more MYSTERIOUS use,
 But to prevent the grand abuse
 Of low unprinted pray’r !

359. Well — this is KIND — we must allow :
 But then we really know not how
 To FAVOUR the intent :
 So strong forbid by SACRED writ,
 A LESSER evil to permit :
 The GREATER to prevent.
360. However urge what cause you please :
 Conceit, or pleasure, or for ease :
 It all amounts to ONE :
 ’Tis only REPETITIVE form :
 Will ne’er enlighten, cheer or warm
 The heart of SENSELESS stone.
361. But what care THINE for cold or heat ?
 It serves to keep beneath their feet
 The IGNORANT and rude :
 A standard to evince their claim :
 Their loan secure — and scourge with shame
 Who would THEIR shrine intrude.
362. “ A set of noisy, bawling men :
 (Roaring like lions in their den)
 “ The nonsense of their HEAD :
 “ Ign’rant as chatt’ring CROW or ROOK :
 “ And only lay aside their BOOK,
 “ Because they cannot read.”
363. Yes, but they can, and read YOU too :
 Not as if this were HARD to do :
 Nothing more easy done :
 But this they know — that take away
 YOUR books — abrupt must end YOUR lay,
 E’er well your lay’s BEGUN.

*The Methodist
 Lay = Preach.
 so called.*

